REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 10 to 15, 17, 19, 21 and 36 to 62, the independent claims being Claims 10, 17, 19, 21, 44, 49, 54 to 57 and 62. Claims 1 to 9, 16, 18, 20 and 22 to 35 previously were cancelled. Claims 10 to 15, 17, 19, 21 and 36 to 57 have been amended herein. Claims 58 to 62 are newly presented.

In the Official Action dated April 6, 2004, Claims 10, 13 to 15, 17, 19, 21, 36, 38 to 40, 42 to 44, 46 to 49 and 51 to 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,507,371 (Hashimoto), Claims 11, 37, 41, 45 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Hashimoto '371 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,023,635 (Nealton), and Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Hashimoto '371 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,682,458 (Funazaki). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 10 to 15, 17, 19, 21 and 36 to 57 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments, and newly presented Claims 58 to 62 have been added to provide Applicant an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel image processing method and apparatus. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 10 the apparatus comprises a connection device that receives a camera-detachable image recording medium into which a picture-taking image and location information associated with the picture-taking image previously have been recorded by an external camera; an input device that inputs, as original

location information, the location information from the camera-detachable image recording medium; a conversion device that converts the original location information input by the input device to second location information in a predetermined representation form; a storing device that stores in the apparatus the original location information input by an input device and the second location information converted by the conversion device; and a recording device that records the second location information converted by the conversion device into the camera-detachable image recording medium in association with the corresponding picture-taking image.

Independent Claims 19 and 54 recite parallel features with respect to a method of converting location information, and an image processing method, respectively.

In a similar aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 17, the present invention relates to an apparatus comprising a connection device that receives a detachable image recording medium into which an image and location information associated with the image previously have been recorded by an external device; an input device that inputs, as original location information, the location information from the detachable image recording medium; a conversion device that converts the original location information input by the input device to second location information in a predetermined representation form; a storing device that stores in the apparatus the original location information input by the input device and the second location information converted by the conversion device; and a recording device that records the second location information converted by the conversion device into the detachable image recording medium in association with the corresponding image.

Independent Claims 21 and 55 recite parallel features with respect to a method of converting location information, and an image processing method, respectively.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 44, the present invention relates to an apparatus similarly comprising a connection device and input device, a conversion device that converts original location information input by the input device to *second*

and third location information *in different representation forms*, a storing device that stores in the apparatus the original location information input by the input device and the second and third location information converted by the conversion device, and a recording device that records the second and third location information, converted by the conversion device, into the camera-detachable image recording medium in association with the corresponding picture-taking image.

Independent Claim 56 recites parallel features with respect to an image processing method.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 49, the present invention relates to an apparatus similarly comprising a connection device and an input device, a conversion device that converts the original information input by the input device to second and third location information in different representation forms, *a selection device that selects one or a plurality of the second and third location information* converted by the conversion device, and a recording device that records the selected one or plurality of second and third location information converted by the conversion device into the camera-detachable image recording medium in association with the corresponding picture-taking image.

Independent Claim 57 recites parallel features with respect to an image processing method.

In another aspect, as recited in newly presented independent Claim 62, the present invention relates to a location information recording, converting and re-recording system. The system comprises an image recording medium, a camera and an apparatus. The image recording medium is detachably connectable to the camera, which records a picture-taking image and location information associated with the picture-taking image into the image recording medium detachably connected to the camera. The apparatus comprises a connection device that detachably receives the image recording medium into which a picture-taking image and a location information associated with the picture-taking image previously have been recorded by

the camera, an input device that inputs, as original location information, the location information from the image recording medium, a conversion device that converts the original location information input by the input device to second location information in a predetermined representation form, a storing device that stores in the apparatus the original location information input by the input device and the second location information converted by the conversion device, and a recording device that records the second location information converted by the conversion device into the image recording medium in association with the corresponding picture-taking image.

Those skilled in the art readily will recognize that, although it is important to automate location detection of cameras, it is not realistic for a camera, as a portable device, to convert detected information to high-level information, such as location names, maps, codes, and home page addresses, as discussed in the prior art, e.g., in the Hashimoto '371 patent. It simply is not practical to provide a portable camera with a conversion table for converting location information into other location information, and to provide it with the functions of controlling, displaying, or re-recording the converted information into a detachable image recording medium. Thus, an important feature of the present invention resides in this point; when taking a picture, the camera records image information and corresponding original location information in the image recording medium. Depending on how the user may use the location information, which is generally in a text form, such as location name / name of city, the representation form of the location information may differ, such as a coded form in a particular application or system, or a longitude and latitude form in map software. The present invention thus relates to an apparatus/method in which original location information, previously recorded in a detachable image recording medium, is retrieved from the detachable image recording medium, is converted into a different representation form, allowing for the selection of the representation form most suitable for the user's anticipated usage, and is recorded in that form back into the image

recording medium while maintaining the association of the location information to the corresponding image. Additionally, both converted location information and the original location information can be recorded back into the detachable image recording medium. In this manner, the user can carry the location information in the most suitable form, in association with the image information, and the location information may be input into other devices, such as cameras, photo-finishing apparatuses, personal computers, TV monitors, printers and the like, as desired/required.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Hashimoto '371 patent relates to a communication apparatus and method that links a network address with designated image information, and discloses a video camera system in which, when an image is recorded, recorded digital image data together with GPS information is recorded when capturing a digital image by a video camera. However, Applicant submits that the Hashimoto '371 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Nowhere is the Hashimoto '371 patent understood to disclose or suggest the recited features including inputting to an apparatus original location information previously recorded in a detachable image recording medium, e.g., by a camera, from the detachable image recording medium, converting the original location information to second (or alternatively second and third) location information, storing in the apparatus the original location information and the second location information (or alternatively the second and third location information), and then recording both the converted second location information (or alternatively the second and third; or further alternatively selectively one or a plurality of the second and third

location information) in the detachable recording medium, together with the associated picture-taking image recorded therein, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

With respect to Embodiment 1 disclosed in Figs. 1 to 3 of the Hashimoto '371 patent, Applicant submits that the MAP CONTROL PROGRAM 219 in STORING SECTION 202, the MAP DISPLAY PROGRAM 220, and the MAP DATA 215 in Memory System 209, which is comprised of an HDD or MO, is not "local information" obtained by a camera; moreover, such functions are unnecessary functions for a camera, and furthermore are too large in scale to be installed in a camera. In this regard, the Hashimoto '371 patent includes the disclosures "An image and location information can be recorded in an analog recording medium such as silver film or a digital recording medium such as a hard disk, MO or flash memory" (column 3, lines 18 to 21) and "210 denotes a communication interface for transmitting or receiving information" (column 2, lines 58 to 60); these passages generally disclose that the above-mentioned "analog recording medium or digital recording medium" is *different* from the memory system 209 of Figure 2. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Embodiment 1 does not disclose or suggest converting original location information to second location information, or re-recording the converted location information into a detachable image recording medium, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

Embodiment 2 of the Hashimoto '371 patent is directed to a personal computer system which converts original location information into location information of another form, and discloses that a user inputs the image data from a memory card into the personal computer (column 5, line 10). In this manner, Hashimoto appears to suggest that a camera records original location information together with image data into the memory card. However, Applicant submits that this memory card is not the same as storing section 308 comprising HDD or MO; DATA, such as each program in main program section 309, INTERNET ADDRESS DATA, POSITION-TO-HOME-PAGE ADDRESS CONVERSION TABLE, etc., are unnecessary

functions for a camera, and impracticable to be installed in a camera because the installing load would be too large. Accordingly, Applicant submits that, although Embodiment 2 of the Hashimoto '371 patent discloses the feature of converting original location information into other forms, it fails to disclose or suggest re-recording the location information after conversion back into the "memory card", as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

Embodiments 3 and 4 of the Hashimoto '371 patent relate to accessing methods to a home-page, and are not believed to be related to the present invention. Applicant notes the disclosure at column 8, lines 38 to 45, that a signal and latitude and lonitude information recorded by a camera at STEP 1202 in IMAGE ACCESS FLOW shown in Figure 14 A are transferred to a computer side using a communication cable or memory card at STEP 1203. However, Applicant submits that this merely discloses that the camera records the image signal and latitude and longitude information into the memory or the memory card in the body of the camera, not into the storing medium section 308 in Figure 5B.

The Nealton '635 patent relates to a dual film and still video studio portrait system using parallel dedicated magnetic tracks on film, and was cited for its disclosure at column 7, lines 51 to 55 of optionally storing new data along with existing data. However, Applicant submits that the Nealton '635 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Rather, Applicant submits that the Nealton '635 patent merely teaches that the 'order entry station' plays back the new or modified instructions it stores, which are transmitted to the photo-finishing system for recording the film. In relation to the present invention, Applicant submits that the Nealton '635 patent does not disclose or suggest that the 'photo-finishing system for recording' is stored in the film along with the original instructions and the new or modified instructions. Thus, Applicant submits that the Nealton '635 patent fails to add anything to the Hashimoto '371 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

The Funazaki '458 patent relates to a camera for recording shot data on a magnetic recording area of a film. However, Applicant submits that the Funazaki '458 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that the Funazaki '458 patent neither discloses or suggests re-recording information in a converted representation form into the same recording medium from which original information has been read/input, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Nor is the Funazaki '458 patent believed to add anything to the Hashimoto '371 patent and/or the Nealon '635 patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 10, 17, 19, 21, 44, 49, 54 to 57 and 62 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 11 to 15, 36 to 39, 40 to 43, 45 to 48, 50 to 53 and 58 to 61 depend from Claims 10, 17, 19, 44, 49 and 21, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant requests that the present Amendment be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments merely are minor or formal in nature, and do not add significant new issues for consideration. The limited number of newly presented claims recite features previously of record and considered, either directly or indirectly, in examination of the prior pending claims, and are not believed to add significant new issues for consideration. Applicant believes the proposed amendments were necessitated by the

Examiner's comments and the outstanding Official Action, to clarify the various claim features and obviate the Examiner's rejection; the amendments were not previously presented because Applicant believes the prior claims are allowable.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 32,078

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
CPW\gmc
DC_MAIN 169858v1